

Report on Meeting of the Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group on 7th February 2017 at Laxton Village Hall

Attendees

Northants CC Planning
North East Northants DC
East Northants District Councillor
Northants County Councillor
Mick George Ltd (Quarry Operators) including Mick George himself
Harringworth PC
Wakerley PM
Barrowden PC (SS & GRSB)
Laxton PM

The meeting was updated on the preparations for commencement of work on site.

Archaeology – The archaeology evaluation including a full geo-physical survey is almost complete and nothing material has been found. Further archaeology work will continue during the excavation of the haul road out to the A43.

Roadworks – A Section 278 Agreement has been completed between Northants CC, Mick George Ltd. and other parties so that the roadworks can now be commenced at the A43, the Duddington Road junction and the Fineshades/Wakerley Rd junction. A Contractor has been appointed and the work will be commenced during the next few months once the specific timing has been agreed with the highways authorities to avoid clashes with other roadworks. During the work on the A43 there will be traffic control at the junction with the Duddington Rd. Exact dates will be confirmed by Mick George Ltd (MGL) and published on the Village email.

Planning Conditions – The majority of the pre-commencement planning conditions have been discharged. The footpath diversion has been completed and inspected by the Northants CC Rights of Way Officer and found to be acceptable, so approval is expected shortly.

Ecology – The relocation of the badgers has been completed and the relocation of the reptiles, principally lizards, will be carried out once they come out of hibernation. This work will be carried out under supervision of the Northants CC's Ecology personnel.

Extraction – Plans were presented showing the location of the onsite processing area. It has been decided to locate this at the north east end of the initial extraction area Phase A. An additional bund will be created at the west end of the processing area to ensure noise is minimised in the direction of Harringworth.

The road between Duddington Rd and Fineshades will use imported aggregate for the base, whereas the section between Fineshades and the quarry will use limestone from the area excavated for the processing plant. All the soil stripping will be carried out under archaeological supervision.

A high pressure gas main passes under the haul road at the Duddington Rd end and concerns from the owner of the pipeline have resulted in MGL having to install a Bailey Bridge to protect the pipe. This will involve raising the road by about 1.5m with the resulting bund in the area being raised by a similar extent.

Planning Application – A new application will be submitted in the spring to Northants CC for permission to import inert material as infill after extraction. There will be the normal consultation for the application including the Parish Council and Rutland CC.

Vehicle Emissions – Mick George was pleased to be able to discuss his vehicle fleet of which he was clearly proud. His view was that there should be a requirement within the planning conditions that vehicle emissions should have maximum levels related to tonnes of material extracted.

The existing MGL fleet has about 240 vehicles of which 60% are Euro 6 standard, however of the tipper fleet which will be used at Wakerley have over 70% fitted with Euro 6 engines. In the current year there are plans to replace about 40 of the older vehicles suggesting replacement over a 6-year cycle and within 2 years all vehicles

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at Wakerley should be Euro 6 compliant. MGL also have achieved the Gold standard for FORS – the Fleet Operators Recognition Scheme. All vehicles are fitted with 4 way cameras and 25% of vehicles have driver cameras to both monitor against inappropriate driving and their protection for their drivers. All vehicles are fitted with telematics which allow central real time monitoring of both speed and location including creating no go zones like Wakerley and Barrowden. Mick George will be providing written details of the fleet for Parish Councils.

Employment – MGL will be recruiting a range of new employees for the Wakerley site including apprentices. Their HR function will ensure that notification of vacancies will be channelled to Parish Councils and then onto the village email and Parish Magazine.

GRSB
7th Feb 2017